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THE

ADVENTURES OF A YANKEE;

OR

THE SINGULAR LIFE

OF

JOHN LEDYARD;

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF HIS VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD WITH THE CELEBRATED

CAPTAIN COOKE.

DESIGNED FOR YOUTH.

BY A YANKEE.

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INTRODUCTION.

1. Most of my readers, I presume, have heard of the *Yankees*, and many of them, no doubt, know who are called by this name. The people of New-England bear this name, which was given to them many years since. The occasion which gave rise to the name was this:

2. On the arrival of the English in the country, numerous tribes of Indians were found scattered over the land. They had never seen any white people before; and were anxious to know whence they had come, and by what name they were called. The new settlers informed the Indians that they came from England, and were called "*English*."

3. This latter word the Indians found it difficult to pronounce. It is always difficult for the people of one conntry to pronounce correctly the language of another country; and when the Indians attempted to pronounce the word English, they could get no nearer to it than to call it *Yang-hees.*

4. A short time before the English began the settlement of New-England, a party of Dutch came over from Holland and began a settlement in New-York. They soon heard of the arrrival of the English, and were much displeased. They wished the whole country to themselves. Hence, they became quite unfriendly to their new neighbours; affected to despise them, and did many things which were calculated to injure them. At several different times they secretly soured the Indians against them, and when the latter called the English *Yang-hees,* the Dutch, by way of

ridicule, called them *Yaung-hees*, or *Yankees*, also. Such was the origin of the name, which the people of New-England have born to this day.

5. It is, however, a good name, though sometimes used by way of ridicule. What people are more intelligent, more brave, more virtuous than the Yankees? What spot on the globe boasts of greater privileges than New-England? What more illustrious names can be named than those who first settled the country? Who can tell of nobler names than Franklin, and Sherman, and Ellsworth, and Edwards, and Dwight?—all Yankees—and to the might-be-added hundreds of others, eminent for their talents, their learning, their patriotism, their benevolence, their piety.

6. Where, too, live a people more distinguished for their enterprise? Look at their industry at home; at their adventures abroad.

Their ships sail on every ocean; their merchants are found in every country, and their travellers have visited every clime.

7. This brings me to announce to my readers the object of the present work—to relate the adventures of the famous JOHN LEDYARD. His life was a succession of hopes and disappointments. No man ever had nobler plans; none greater enterprise. He smiled at danger; and was superior to those calamities which bear down and even crush men of more ordinary minds.

8. Ledyard has been called, by way of distinction, "The American Traveller." We have given him the more appropriate title of "*The Yankee Traveller*;" and were he living, who believes that he would despise the name?

JOHN LEDYARD.

CHAPTER I.

Early Life.

1. JOHN LEDYARD, about whose wonderful life I am going to write, was born in the year 1751. His native place was Groton, a small village in Connecticut, on the banks of the River Thames, opposite to New-London. The place of his birth is but a short distance from Fort Griswold, in which, perhaps, my readers know, a great number of American soldiers were cruelly slain, during the war of the revolution, by order of that famous traitor, Benedict Arnold. Colonel William Ledyard, the com-

mander of the Fort at that time, was the uncle of John, and was most wickedly killed by a British officer, who plunged a sword into his bosom.

2. The grandfather of John, about whom I must say a few words, was a native of England, where he was bred a merchant. At length, however, he removed to America, and for a time, lived on Long-Island. Afterwards he removed to Groton, and at a still later date, to the city of Hartford, where he ended his days.

3. The father of John, who bore the same name, early followed the sea; and, at length, became the captain of a vessel, engaged in the West-India trade. He was a man of good character, and industrious habits. Unfortunately for his family, he died at the early age of thirty-five, leaving John, with several other children, destitute of the wise counsel and good example of a worthy father.

4. It is generally a serious misfortune to a youth to lose a father, qualified and disposed to bring up a son to habits of virtue and industry. Such an event often changes the whole prospect and course of life of a young man.

Happy indeed is it, when a mother is able to supply the place of a father.

5. This was eminently the case with Mrs. Ledyard, the mother of John. She was well informed, resolute,

generous, amiable, and kind; and, more than all, she was truly pious. Such a mother all fatherless children have not; but those who are thus blessed cannot be sufficiently thankful. A well informed, discreet, and pious mother is among the greatest blessings which heaven bestows on children. I love to dwell upon the character of such a woman. I love to think of her. I love to speak of her virtues, and to recommend her example.

6. Such a mother had John Ledyard. By some means, now unknown, soon after the death of her husband, Mrs. Ledyard was deprived of the little property left for her support, and that of her children. This was a severe trial. Her children, three sons and a daughter, were still small, and now she had no means of supporting them. Yet, under her trials, she was humble, patient, and resigned. Fortunately, her father was still living on Long-Island, and under his hospitable roof she took refuge, with her little family.

7. Years rolled by, and, as they passed, contributed to the age and stature of John. His mother marked this increasing stature of his person and the expansion of his mind, with anxiety. He had reached an age to receive impressions, and such impressions as would last

It was his forming period. She felt anxious, as a tender mother always feels, that a right direction should be given to his thoughts and pursuits. It was her daily prayer, that he might escape the temptations which bring thousands to ruin.

8. The life of John Ledyard is one of the most extraordinary ever recorded. He proved to be a singular man—singular for his love of adventure, and singular for his courage and fortitude. Few men ever passed over so many regions of the globe; few ever met with more crosses and disappointments, or endured more suffering. Yet, be it recorded to his praise, he seems ever to have remembered his mother with an uncommon tenderness and filial affection. Her image always came to him with a beam of joy. It lightened his heavy heart, where ever he was, whether wading amidst the frozen snow of Siberia, or panting amidst the burning sands of Africa.

CHAPTER II.

College Days.

1. The worthy mother of John had resided on Long-Island some years, when she was a second time married; upon which event, she sent him to Hartford, to live with his grandfather. Here he attended the grammar school, where, it is said, he applied himself to his studies with commendable diligence. But even at this time, he was considered quite a strange lad. He was unusually fond of adventure; and although I know not that he was vicious or ugly, he was wild and frolicksome.

2. Having finished the usual course at the grammar school, John was entered as a student in the law office of Mr. Thomas Seymour, a respectable lawyer of Hartford, who had married his aunt. Here he spent several months. But law books had no charms for him. Of course, he made but little progress in the study of the profession, and soon after abandoned it.

3. But, now, what should he do? What business should he pursue? This was a difficult point to decide. We have already hinted at some of his peculiarities, particularly his love of what had difficulty and danger attending it. He longed for something promising success only through toil and suffering deeds of courage and the most resolute efforts. Such was the bent of John Ledyard.

4. And such being his bent, it was difficult, in a moment, to find precisely the business which would suit his wishes. He was now nineteen years of age, with scarcely any property, and with but few friends. In these circumstances, it seemed necessary to do something for himself, and to set about it immediately.

5. While in this state of doubt, it so happened that Dr. Wheelock, the founder of Dartmouth College, came

to Hartford. He was the particular friend of Ledyard's grandfather. The good Doctor invited John to accompany him to Hanover, in New-Hampshire, to study in his school, and to be qualified as a missionary, among the Indians.

6. I must tell my readers something more of this school of Dr. Wheelock. It had now been established about two years. It was designed to prepare missionaries to preach to the Indians. They were heathen, and had never heard of the Bible, nor of the way of salvation by the Son of God. The benevolent heart of Dr. Wheelock was filled with concern for them; and, at his own expense, he opened a school, in his own house. This was the beginning of Dartmouth College. At first, he had only two pupils, one of whom was Sampson Occum, an Indian of the Mohegan tribe. As a preacher, Occum afterwards became very celebrated; he visited England, and obtained considerable money for the school of Dr. Wheelock.

7. John accompanied Dr. Wheelock to Hanover, and entered his school. To this course he was prompted, in part, by the wishes of his good mother. She was, as

has been noticed, a religious woman, and felt a strong compassion for the unenlightened Indians. Besides, she had an exalted sense of the honour attached to a humble and devoted missionary. It was the summit of her wishes to see her son teaching to the "red men" of the woods, the truths of the gospel.

8. Ledyard was disposed, no doubt, to please his mother, especially as the contemplated course of life gave promise of adventure, among the sons of the forest. Hanover, whither he was going, was about 140 miles from Hartford. The country was wild and thinly inhabited. The savages were untamed and veteran warriors. They could tell of battles with other tribes, and of fights with the wild beasts of the forests. These ideas were pleasant to the strange mind of Ledyard.

9. At length, Ledyard set out for Hanover; but he made an odd appearance on his journey. Instead of going on horseback, he procured an old and worn out sulky, which he loaded down with a large quantity of calico. This he designed for curtains for a theatre, which he intended to fit up at Hanover, for the purpose of exhibiting plays. This was a strange project in one who

designed to be a missionary of the cross. Wonderful indeed was it that he ever reached Hanover in safety. The roads were new, narrow, and exceedingly rough. No bridges had yet been erected over the streams. Yet the crazy vehicle of Ledyard held out, and was the first of the kind ever seen on Dartmouth plain.

10. As to the college life of young Ledyard, we have little that is honourable to record. As a scholar, he was respectable; but he submitted to the rules of the college reluctantly. Confinement he loved not, nor the dull round, as he considered it, of college duties. We must not say that he appeared at any time openly rebellious; but it was apparent that he disliked even salutary control. An instance is related of the bad manner in which he sometimes performed his duty as a student. The college in those days had no bell to call the students together, but only a conch-shell, and this, it was a part of the duty of the freshmen to blow in turn. The turn of Ledyard at length came. He took it, indeed, but it was almost too much for his proud spirit to blow it. He did blow upon it; but the broken, and grating, and groaning sounds, which he designedly made, showed too well how reluctantly he performed the duty.

11. Soon after he was settled in his new abode, Ledyard bethought him of his intended theatre. A rude stage was accordingly fitted up; the calico was brought out, and hung round, in due form; and here, with the assistance of his fellow-students, several *tragedies* were acted, no doubt in a *comical* style. But, as they served to introduce some variety into their dull course of life, they were often repeated, sometimes to the neglect of the more appropriate duties of the college.

12. Scarcely had Ledyard been at Hanover four months, when suddenly and secretly he disappeared. His restless spirit could no longer be contented. Although it was a mystery whither he had fled, it afterward appeared that he boldly went forth into the forest; and, through the wilderness, directed his course towards the borders of Canada. During his wanderings, he visited several Indian tribes, whose language he so far acquired as to serve him an important purpose, in his travels in subsequent years, among different savage tribes, in various parts of the world.

13. At the end of three months and a half, Ledyard again made his appearance at Hanover, and resumed his studies. But his missionary ardour no longer existed.

He had seen the Indians, and perhaps was impressed with the difficulty of imparting religious instruction to them; at least, the conviction seems to have settled upon his mind that he was not fitted for such an undertaking.

14. Ledyard judged correctly. He *was* unfitted by nature for a life of missionary toil and self-denial. He knew too little of the gospel, and was too unsteady in his views and purposes. Success would never have crowned his labors, and he wisely relinquished the project.

15. He now became weary also with the confinement of a college life. He studied little, and paid still less attention to the salutary rules of the institution. This neglect brought upon him the just censure of the president. The admonitions he received he took unkindly, and now meditated an escape.

16. Accordingly, he laid his plan; and, without exciting the suspicions even of his fellow-students, he prepared to put it in execution. The college was situated on the margin of the Connecticut River, lining the banks of which were several towering forest-trees. One of these Ledyard felled, and from it constructed a canoe

fifty feet long and three feet wide. In this task, and it was by no means a small one, he was assisted by several of his fellow-students. Little did they imagine what was working in Ledyard's mind.

17. The canoe was at length completed, was launched, was prepared for a voyage. The heart of Ledyard beat high with joy as he unfastened his canoe, one evening, and amidst the silence of the night, secretly set forth in quest of adventure. This was a bold step. He was unacquainted with the navigation of the river—how then should he manage his canoe amidst its rapids, its currents, and its falls?

18. The heart of Ledyard, however, was strong; he feared no danger; he delighted in what was difficult and hazardous to accomplish. He had stocked his canoe with provisions; and, as a shield from the damps of the night, he had provided himself with a large bear-skin. Thus equipped, he took leave of Dartmouth, and amidst surrounding solitude floated down the river. As occasion required, he employed his paddles, and thus through many a mile and many a league of wilderness, he pursued his solitary way. On the approach of night he

fastened his canoe to the shore, and in its cavity sank to sleep, without fear or molestation.

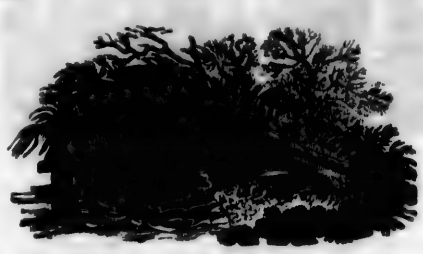
19. At length he approached Bellow ' Falls. The river here becomes narrow, and the waters are forced with great power down a steep ledge of rocks. At the moment of approach he was deeply engaged, reading either in his Greek Testament or in Ovid, a Latin author. Suddenly, the rush of the waters arrested his attention. The speed of his canoe was like that of a war-horse. The rapids were just before him, and destruction was in the passage. A bold effort was required, and even that might prove ineffectual. He seized his paddles; he braced his feet; he nerved his arm; and, with desperate effort, turned the head of his boat to the shore. He sailed on the brink of death. What will not coolness and undaunted courage, mingled with strength, accomplish! His canoe plunged upon the shore and Ledyard escaped a watery grave.

20. He was himself surprised that he had thus escaped. But the inhabitants, in the neighbourhood of the falls, were still more surprised. They regarded him with wonder; and wondered still more at his achieve-

ment. A difficulty now occurred. His canoe was above the falls, and on the shore. By what means could it be got below? The farmers of the neighbourhood readily tendered him their assistance, and by means of a long train of oxen, drew it round the falls and again safely launched it on its more appropriate element. Ledyard thanked the wondering inhabitants, again embarked, and proceeded on his way.

21. We will not detain our readers with several other hair-breadth escapes, during the voyage. The sequel shall suffice. One morning—it was a bright morning in the Spring, and just as the sun was rising—some of Mr. Seymour's family were standing on the high bank of the little river that runs through the city of Hartford, and which flows into the Connecticut. They descried something at a distance slowly moving up the stream. What could it be? Others were called; but the wonder increased. At length, it neared the shore opposite the house. It was now perceived to be a canoe. Some one leaped from the stern of the boat to the shore, threw from him a bear-skin, in which he had been concealed, and approached the house. Judge the surprise when

John Ledyard stood in the presence of his uncle and the family. No intelligence had reached them of his having left Dartmouth; but until this moment of explanation they supposed that he was in the walls of the college, fitting himself to become a missionary among the Indians.



CHAPTER III.

Voyage to England.

1. Thus ended the voyage of John Ledyard down the Connecticut; and with it ended all his plans respecting a collegiate education, and a missionary life. We next find him pursuing the study of divinity, and preparing himself to become a parish minister. But his studies here, also, were of short duration. He was not, indeed, fitted for the profession, and it was well, upon the whole, that he did not enter upon its sacred

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duties. Several clergymen, to whom he made application, as delicately as they were able, declined giving him a license to preach; upon which, with disgust, he relinquished the project of becoming a minister.

2. Our readers must not suppose, however, that the conduct of John Ledyard was vicious. This was not his fault. But there was a certain wildness and impetuosity, and we may add an inconsistency, in his character which would have diminished, if not destroyed, his usefulness in the sacred cause.

3. Within a few weeks after relinquishing the above purpose, he entered himself as a sailor, on board a vessel bound to Gibraltar. Although he served in the capacity of a common sailor, by his good humor and friendly manners he soon gained the esteem of Captain Deshon, by whom he was treated more as a companion than as a common sailor.

4. Not long after the vessel had arrived in Gibraltar, and while she was yet lying in that place, Ledyard became uneasy and restless. The confinement wore upon him. At length he suddenly and secretly abandoned

the vessel, nor for a time could any tidings be heard of him. Ledyard had found his way to the barracks of the British soldiers; had already enlisted; and, dressed in British uniform, was now carrying himself with all the martial air of one of his Majesty's soldiers. Captain Deshon succeeded, however, in effecting his release, and in persuading him to return to his duty.

5 From Gibraltar the vessel proceeded to the coast of Barbary, and returned home by the way of the West-Indies. This had consumed a year of Ledyard's life. It had yielded no pecuniary profit, and he soon found himself in want, and dependent upon his friends. This was a trying period. He possessed a proud and lofty spirit. He could not feel willing to gain a livelihood by common means. This was one grand defect in his character. It is ever a serious injury to a young man to despise an occupation because it is humble. The friends of Ledyard saw this defect and lamented. But it pertained so strongly to his nature that no remedy within their reach could be applied.

6. In this state of depression and despondency, a prospect of better things, as he thought, suddenly present-

ed itself to his eye. He had heard his grandfather tell of rich relations of the family living in England. His imagination now took wing. Could he but reach England—could he find them—who could say that it might not be a passport to wealth and honor? He was not long in forming his plan. The next vessel which sailed from New-York to England had John Ledyard on board, working his passage as a sailor, without money, without a single acquaintance, without even a letter of introduction—yet full of hope and full of zeal.

7. As he entered the streets of London, after his arrival, he could scarcely have been distinguished from a common beggar. His appearance was squalid, and his clothes "all tattered and torn!" By accident, and it was purely accidental, he saw one day his family name on a splendid coach. This led him to the mansion of a rich merchant, who belonged to the family from which his ancestors sprung. He told his story, but they believed him not. They had never heard of relations in America, and were not disposed to patronise one whose appearance added no honor to the family. The lofty spirit of Ledyard was fired. His integrity was impeached.

Humbled and disgusted, he turned indignant from the threshold, nor could he ever be induced to seek assistance again from his rich London relations.

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CHAPTER IV.

Voyage with Captain Cook round the World. Tene- riffe—Cape of Good Hope—Van Diemans Land— New-Zealand.

1. JUST at this important crisis in the affairs of Ledyard—when his promised success had vanished like a dream, and a state of feeling had ensued bordering on desperation—at this critical moment, it was announced to the public that Captain Cook was about sailing on his third voyage round the world. The news arrested the attention of Ledyard. No project could more

accord with his native genius. It roused the spirit of adventure within him; and, at a time when poverty was pressing upon him, and assistance from friends could no longer be expected, he was quite ready to enlist in an enterprise, which, while it made him forget home, presented an opportunity to gratify both his curiosity and ambition.

2. He soon took the resolution to join this expedition, and accordingly enlisted on board one of the ships. This led the way to an introduction to Captain Cook. Ledyard was peculiarly fitted for an enterprise so full of hardship and peril. The sagacious mind of Captain Cook soon discovered the heroic qualities of Ledyard. He was admitted to the confidence of that skilful navigator, and early promoted to be a corporal of marines.

3. The expedition, at length, being ready, left England on the twelfth of July, 1776, eight days after the declaration of the American Independence. It consisted of two ships, the *Resolution* and *Discovery*; the former under the command of Captain Cook, and the latter under the command of Captain Clerke. The first harbor at which they came to anchor was in Teneriffe, a noted island on the western coast of Africa, celebrated for its

high peak of land, which rises to the height of more than twelve thousand feet above the level of the sea. Sailing thence, they next made the Cape of Good Hope, the southern extremity of Africa, where they designed to prepare to launch forth, on a long voyage into the great Southern Ocean.

4. Having spent some time in refitting the ships, and in collecting various animals, which, together with those brought from England, consisted of horses, cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, cats, hares, rabbits, monkeys, ducks, geese, turkeys, and peacocks—they departed from the Cape and in about two months reached Adventure Bay, in Van Deiman's Land, at the southern limits of New-Holland. For several days they saw no natives of the country; but at length several small parties came down to the beach. Ledyard, who kept a journal of the voyage, describes them as apparently the most wretched of human beings. They wore no clothes and, carried nothing with them but a rude stick about three feet long and sharpened at one end. Their skin was black, hair curly, and the beards of the men covered with a red, oily substance. They had no canoes, nor any habitations, except a few pieces of old bark laid across some small poles.

During all his travels Ledyard saw no people apparently so near to brutes as the people on Van Deiman's Land. When bread was offered them it was thrown away; nor could they be induced to taste even a fish. They ate birds with great relish. Who can contemplate a set of beings so low and not mourn over the sunken and degraded state to which the human family may sink?

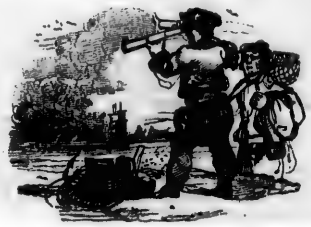
5. Having here taken in a sufficient quantity of wood and water, the expedition next proceeded to New-Zealand, where they entered a Cove, in Queen Charlotte's Sound. New-Zealand lies south-east of New-Holland. It consists of two islands, separated from each other by a strait, twelve or fifteen miles broad. The natives of these Islands are a noble race of men; they are taller than most Europeans, and possess perfectly regular features. Yet they are fierce and warlike. War is their topic of conversation; they believe that the soul, as soon as it is parted from the body, is engaged in war. They are cannibals, and when provoked are exceedingly ferocious; yet, in their natural disposition they are mild and kind.

6. While the ships lay in Queen Charlotte's Sound an incident occured which we must not pass over. An

English sailor became much attached to a New-Zealand girl, by the name of Gow-an-na-hee. He furnished her with combs and various ornaments, and even suffered himself to be tattooed,* according to the custom of the country, to render himself more agreeable to her. Their affection was strong and mutual. At length the hour of separation arrived. Unwilling to leave her, the sailor contrived to effect his escape; and, clad in the costume of the natives, mingled in the crowd of natives, collected to witness the departure of the ships. When on the point of raising the sails, all hands on board were assembled, and the roll was called. The absence of the English sailor was now discovered. The cause, too, was well known. Officers were despatched to find him. Suspecting their intentions, he had secreted himself; but

* *Tattooing* consists in pricking the skin with a kind of instrument, resembling a comb, and filling the punctures with a paste made of soot and oil, or with paint, which leaves an indelible mark. Some nations tattoo the face; others the body. Figures resembling animals and other objects are often drawn. Mr. Banks, who accompanied Capt. Cook, once saw a girl about thirteen years old, tattooed. The instrument used consisted of thirty teeth; and every stroke (of which at least an hundred were made in a minute) drew a small quantity of serum, tinged with blood. The girl bore the pain with much fortitude, for a quarter of an hour; but at length filled the air with the most piercing cries, imploring to be released. And when she began to struggle she was held down by two strong women, who often struck her while the cruel operator went on with the work. The operation lasted between three and four hours.

his hiding place was at length discovered. He was taken on board, and thus forever separated from one to whom he was most sincerely attached. It was an affecting scene. Gow-an-na-hee herself was overwhelmed with anguish. Some of the officers were disposed to suffer the sailor to remain; but Captain Cook said that it would not do. The sails were now spread and the ships were soon seen urging their way on the billows of the great deep. The sailor was called to an account. This seemed almost cruel; but great strictness is necessary on board ships of war and of discovery. Although censurable, according to the rules observed on board ships, Captain Cook kindly forgave him, and dismissed him without punishment.



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CHAPTER V.

Voyage continued—Wat-tee-oo—Friendly Islands.

1. On leaving New-Zealand Captain Cook directed his course towards Otaheite; or, as it is now called, *Tahiti*, the largest of the Society Islands, and about fifteen hundred miles north-east from New-Zealand.

2. Their voyage, however, proved very unpleasant. High winds threw the ocean into great agitation; and being ahead, forced them out of their course. At length, the cattle on board suffered for want of grass and water, and even the men pined for fresh provisions. Under

these circumstances Captain Cook thought it best to bear away to the Friendly Islands, whither they now directed their course.

3. During their run thither they fell in with several islands never before discovered. On one of these several officers of the ships affected a landing, accompanied by *Omai*, about whom, in this place, it will be necessary to relate some particulars. Omai was a native of the Society Islands, from which Captain Cook had taken him on a former voyage, and had carried him to England. He had become well acquainted with the English language, and was now on his return to his native island

4. Omai, I said, was one of the party which landed on a newly discovered island, which was called by the natives *Wat-tee-oo*. No sooner had they landed than they were immediately surrounded by the natives, who plundered them, and for some time detained them. They sustained, however, no personal injury.

5. While on this island, what was Omai's astonishment to find three of his countrymen among the crowd which gathered around them. Omai entered into conversation with them, and learned their affecting story. They had been on this island for several years. They told

Omai that their party originally consisted of twenty persons, men, women, and children. They had gone on board a large canoe, and were designing to pass from Otaheite to a neighbouring island. They had not sailed far, however, before a mighty storm arose which drove them far out to sea. Their few provisions were soon exhausted. They could discover no land and knew not the way to return. Nor could they return, by reason of the continuance of the storm. A strong current also united its force with the wind and drove them with amazing rapidity farther and farther from home. Hunger and fatigue and exposure soon put a period to the sufferings of most of the women and children, whose bodies they were obliged to cast into the waters of the deep. A frenzy seized upon others, who jumped overboard and were drowned. For thirteen long days and nights they were hurried forward. On this last day they were thrown upon the Island of Wat-ee-oo, where the natives found them. Four only survived, and these were so reduced by famine and suffering that for a time they were nearly insensible. They were taken on shore, and, under the kind treatment they received, gradually recovered. One of their number had since died. Omai

invited the remaining three to return with him to their native island; but to this they replied, "No, our friends are dead; we live happily here; we wish not to return." To this we shall only add, that the distance between Otaheite and Wat-tee-oo is more than fifteen hundred miles. The above canoe must have sailed more than one hundred miles a day. What power, but a Superintending Providence could have preserved a canoe, lashed by winds and waves, thirteen days in the midst of the wide Pacific Ocean.

6. Leaving Wat-tee-oo, Captain Cook bore directly for the *Friendly Islands*, and on the ninth of June came to anchor in a harbor of *Ton-gat-a-boo;* the largest island belonging to that group. The Friendly Islands were so called from the kind and obliging disposition which it was supposed at that time, the inhabitants possessed. Later experience has led to the conclusion that they are far from being entitled to this praise. On the contrary, recent visitors have found them capable of great cruelty and revenge.

7. Captain Cook and his men, however, formed a different opinion. Here the ships lay almost a month, and in the mean time the officers of the crew enjoyed them-

selves greatly. They received an abundance of provision, and mingled with the natives on social and friendly terms.

8. The island of Tongataboo they found to be quite fertile, and the agriculture of the natives much superiour to that of New-Zealand. The king, or great chief of Tongataboo, was *Pou-la-ho*, whom Ledyard describes as a mild and amiable man. He treated Captain Cook with great respect and commanded his people to do the same.

9. Ledyard spent one night with Pou-la-ho, who invited him to his tent, and entertained him with baked yams and fish. About nine o'clock, they retired to rest. Their beds consist of mats: instead of pillows, they make use of small stools. During the night several of the natives played on a kind of flute, around the tent, to gratify the chief.

10. During the stay of the ships Cap^{t}. Cook and his men were invited to witness some of their amusements. These consisted of wrestling, boxing, and other athletic exercises in which they greatly excelled. They appeared extremely vigourous and expert, and altogether more courageous than any other people, whom the Eng-

lish had seen during the voyage. By way of return for this civility, Captain Cook gave a briliant exhibition of fire-works. At this the natives were greatly astonished and delighted. They were shown, also, some of the astronomical instruments belonging to the ship with which they were well pleased; but they were more amused with the horses, cows, sheep, and goats, which animals they had never seen before. Dogs and hogs were their only animals.

11. One propensity among this people, Captain Cook found quite troublesome. They were great theives. They made little scruple to pilfer anything upon which they could lay their hands. This propensity Captain Cook found prevailing throughout all the South Sea Islands; and what is quite remarkable, they appear not to consider it any crime. This shows us what evils usually exist where the Bible is not to be found.

12. Among the under chiefs in Ton-gat-a-boo, was one whom they called *Feenou*. No chief was more respected, none was more commanding in his person, or more generous and frank in his disposition. He was the devoted friend of Pou-la-ho, by whom he was greatly honoured. Feenou saw some of the peacocks belonging

to the English, and was highly delighted with their appearance. Just before the sailing of the vessels, the peacocks disappeared. Feenou had stolen them and had fled. Upon this Captain Cook arrested Pou-la-ho, and kept him a prisoner till the peacocks were returned. Great commotions, for a time, prevailed among the natives, and warlike preparations were made. Pou-la-ho, however, was calm, and resisted the rising storm. At length, Feenou was found, restored the birds, and accompanied their return with a present of red feathers and provisions to Captain Cook. Harmony was now restored, and the parties took leave of each other, with as much kindness and good will as could be expected.

CHAPTER VI.

Voyage continued—Society Islands—Hueheine—Sandwich Islands—American Continent—Nootka Sound—Onalaska—Singular Discovery—Courage of Ledyard.

1. Captain Cook having taken leave of Pou-la-ho, as noticed in the last Chapter, proceeded directly to the Society Islands, where he arrived, with his vessels, on the 14th August. These islands lie east of the Friendly Islands, and are thirteen in number. The largest of the group, where our navigators came to anchor, is Otaheite (now called Tahiti), which is 120 miles in circumference.

VI.

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—Courage of Ledyard.

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with his vessels, on
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The other important islands are Ulietea, Bolabol- Tubai, Maitea, Hueheine and Eimeo.

2. Ledyard in his journal describes these islands, and speaks of their inhabitants with some particularity. The inhabitants are estimated at one hundred thousand. The men are tall, strong, and well built, particularly the chiefs, few of whom are under six feet in height. Many of the women are also taller than the American women. Their complexion is olive; they are in general quite handsome; they have black and coarse hair. In their manners they are easy and graceful; in disposition courteous and kind; but often shrewd and artful.

3. Their clothing is made of cloth, manufactured from the inner rind of the bark of several kinds of trees. It is cool and soft, but soon liable to decay. In their amusements they strongly resemble the natives of Tongataboo. They were formerly idolaters, and practiced infanticide, or the offering up of children. To the English they pretended that they never sacrificed human victims, but of the contrary of this the English had too many sad proofs.

4. It may be pleasant to my readers to know what a happy change has taken place within a few years, among

the inhabitants of these islands, in respect to religion. In the year 1796 and 1800, the London Missionary Society sent out a number of missionaries to instruct the natives, and to persuade them, if possible, to embrace the Christian Religion. But for several years they had little success. The idolatry and superstition of the natives was deep laid. The missionaries, however, persevered. Within a few years, they have been quite successful. All the inhabitants of Otaheite, Eimeo, and several of the adjacent islands, have laid aside their heathen religion and embraced Christianity. They have houses of worship, which are well filled, and schools which are well attended.

5. At Otaheite, Captain Cook staid only a short time, designing to return, after he had visited the American Coast. Before leaving the islands, however, he sailed over to Hueheine, the native island of Omai, where they designed to leave him. As he had been of great service to them, Captain Cook purchased of the natives a small tract of land, on which he built a small house for him; he also laid out a garden, in which were planted various seeds, which had been brought from England. Captain Cook also gave him several of the live animals from on board the ships.

6. The time of departure had now arrived. To all it was a painful separation. Omai was much beloved. He was indeed glad to see his country and friends once more; but became much dejected, as he shook hands with Captain Cook and the officers, for the last time. It was indeed the last time. How long Omai lived after this, or what became of him, is now unknown.

7. The sails of the ships being spread, and all on board, Captain Cook led the way, taking a northerly course, with a design to make the American Coast at about the 40th degree of north latitude. For six long weeks the ships continued to urge on their course, without noticing any other object than perhaps an uninhabited island or some projecting rocks. Suddenly, one day, an island of magnitude appeared in sight, and was hailed with joy. It was an island which belonged to a group. This was a new discovery. Cook named the group the *Sandwich Islands*. Little did he then think—little did any one think—of the results of this discovery. Ah! little did this celebrated man think that here he would terminate his mortal existence; and as little, perhaps, that in future years, missionaries from America would be proclaiming, to admiring multitudes, the gospel of Chirst, in its reforming efficacy, and in its rich consolations.

8. The land was now approached, and a convenient harbor received the ships. Soon after, they were surrounded with canoes, filled with the natives. They were greatly astonished at the appearance of the ships, and of the English. The latter not much less astonished to find these people, separated from the Society Islands by an ocean nearly three thousand miles in extent, and from New-Zealand about four thousand, speaking nearly the same language.

9. The natives, at first, appeared shy, but not long after ventured on board, and presented to the new comers pigs, yams, sweet potatoes, and other provisions. They regarded the English with evident wonder. They examined the hands, faces, and clothes of the sailors; and, as if in doubt of the fact, inquired of them whether they could eat.

10. It being the first of February, Captain Cook concluded that no time was to be lost. Accordingly at the expiration of ten days he took his departure for the American coast, designing to return, after he should have explored that coast, and the polar latitudes. From this time, nothing remarkable occurred, until they reached the American Continent, and anchored in Nootka Sound.

11. I need not tell my readers, I suppose, that this was the first time that Nootka Sound had been visited by an European vessel, nor that it is a bay of large dimensions, extending several leagues into the country. It lies in latitude about fifty north; nearly three thousand miles west of New-England. After a voyage of so many months and so many thousand miles, one can scarcely tell the feelings of Ledyard, as he again stepped on to his native continent, although a distance of three thousand miles separated him from the spot that gave him birth. He thought of home; need I say that he thought of a mother there, who he knew, if she were still living, would think every succeeding night, as she lay upon her pillow, of her darling son. Ledyard had a lofty spirit and heroic courage; yet he was not proof against those feelings which rivet man to home and which, if sometimes the source of the purest joy, are also the source of the deepest sorrow.

12. The natives of Nootka Sound live chiefly in two villages, and are supposed to amount to about two thousand. They strongly resemble the Indians of the eastern side of the continent. Their hair is black, and is generally worn in a club on the top of the head, and besmeared with oil and paints to which is added the down

of birds. They paint their faces with red, blue, and white color. Their garments are of two kinds, the one made of the inner rind of bark, the other of the hair of their dogs. They manufacture wampum very similar to that found among the tribes far to the east. The natives they found occupied much of their time in the taking of furs. Captain Cook purchased some of these furs, among which were about fifteen hundred beaver skins, which proved a profitable speculation.

13. Having spent a few days at Nootka Sound the expedition proceeded northward, coasting along the American shore, till it reached Bering's Strait, which separates Asia from America. The strait derives its name from Nitus Bering, a Danish navigator, commodore in the service of Russia. He was sent by Peter I, in 1728, with some ships to explore the north coasts of America; but it was only in a third voyage, made in 1741, that he discovered any thing remarkable. His ship struck on an island, on the coast of Kamtschatka, and while repairing the damages sustained there, he died in the place.

14. This strait the ships entered; and, in passing through, Ledyard says both continents were distinctly

seen at the same time. At length, they reached the polar seas, which they traversed during the month of August; but, at length, being impeded by ice, they were obliged to return, without affecting a desirable object—the discovery of a northwest passage. They now shaped their course towards the Sandwich Islands; but meeting with the island of Onalaska, an incident occurred which from its interest we shall stop to relate.

15. This island lies in the Pacific Ocean, on the northwest coast of America, in latitude 57°. Here the English found evident traces of intercourse with Europeans. Beside being fond of tobacco, rum, and snuff, the natives were observed to have several blue linen shirts and drawers among them. Besides, they had cakes of rye, seasoned with pepper and salt. Upon inquiry, the English learned from the natives that there were white people, at a distance, in the country, who had come over the great waters, in a vessel like theirs. This intelligence determined Captain Cook to send some one to ascertain the fact, and to inquire who these strangers might be.

16. Ledyard, who was well known for his intelligence, courage, and perseverance, had the dangerous honor offered to him. Full of danger as the expedition must

be, Ledyard hesitated not to accept the appointment; and, having taken such presents as were judged most proper, started upon his enterprise under the guidance of a young chief, whose name was Perpheela, and two Indians. Their route, for the first day, lay through a wilderness, into which they penetrated about fifteen miles. Night overtook them on their arrival at a village consisting of about thirty huts. These huts were erected over a kind of cellar, or square hole, sunk about four feet into the ground. The lower part of the frame was covered with turf, and higher up was thatched with coarse grass. Ledyard was received with cordiality by the inhabitants, and the next morning pursued his journey, in company with his guides.

17. The day proved cold, and chilly, and wet. Ledyard's feet were much swollen, so that with great difficulty he could walk. Towards the close of the day, they arrived at a large bay. Here, Perpheela putting Ledyard's baggage into a canoe, and at the same time taking a seat in it struck from the shore, telling Ledyard to follow his Indian guides. At this circumstance, Ledyard was not a little perplexed. Can Perpheela, thought he, be treacherous? For a moment he hesitated, but

knowing that he was in the power of his guides, he concluded to follow them, without betraying any distrust. After wandering about six miles along the shore of the bay, a canoe was descried which the guides hailed. It proved to be a canoe sent by Perpheela to conduct them across the bay.

18. It was now night, and darkness thickened about them. The canoe which carried them being of skin, after the Esquimaux plan, was urged forward with great rapidity, notwithstanding it seemed impossible to know the course they would take. About an hour from the time they entered the canoe she struck with force upon the opposite beach. Ledyard was now conducted to a hut, about forty rods distant, on entering which he discovered himself to be in the presence of Russians. These were the strangers of whom Perpheela had told Captain Cook. After partaking of their hospitality Ledyard ascertained that they were indeed Russians, subjects of the Empress Catharine. Their number was about thirty, who, together with seventy Indians from Kamtschatka, occupied the village. About five years before they had come from the latter place to the island of Onalaska, for the purpose of procuring furs. The

vessel which brought them was shown to Ledyard: it was a small sloop of about thirty tons burthen, and was said by the Russians to be the same in which the celebrated Bering had made his discoveries. Once a year they despatched the sloop to Kamtschatka, to deliver their merchandise, and in return to bring to the settlement such supplies as were needed.

19. Having now accomplished the object of his journey, Ledyard took leave of his new acquaintance. He was conveyed across the bay in a canoe, manned with twelve oars, after leaving which he was accompanied by three of the Russians to the ships, which they reached in safety. Captain Cook received Ledyard with a hearty welcome, and paid a high compliment to his courage and perseverance.

CHAPTER VII.

Voyage continued—Return of the ships to the Sandwich Islands—Landing of Captain Cook—Attempt of Ledyard to visit Mouna Roa—Death of Captain Cook—Return of the Expedition to England.

1. Two months from the time the expedition left Onalaska, Captain Cook again reached the Sandwich Islands, and anchored in the commodious bay of Ke-ar-a-kek-wa, on the south side of O-why-hee, or as it is now spelt, Haw-a-ii (Haw-y-ee). No sooner had they cast anchor than crowds of people flocked to the shore and

filled the bay with almost a countless number of canoes. Shouts of joy and admiration were heard on every side.

2. Captain Cook now made preparations to go on shore, and, for the purpose of a deeper impression on the natives, he proceeded with some ceremony. A passage was open for his pinnace, through the canoes, which thronged around, by two chiefs, who carried in their hands two long white poles, as ensigns of their authority. As he passed along, a reverential awe seemed to pervade the people in the canoes, who sat motionless with their hands covering their faces.

3. A still more interesting spectacle was witnessed on his reaching shore. As if he had been a being belonging to another world the multitude fell prostrate upon the earth, and with difficulty could a way be opened for him to pass. As he proceeded, those behind rose and followed, while those whom he approached fell to the ground, and thus prostrate continued so until he had passed. Occasionally turning his head, the multitude behind, watching his movements, were again instantly prostrate; nor did they rise till his head was again turned in the direction towards which he was conducted. The confusion, however, ceased on his entering the Morai, a

sacred inclosure, into which none but the chiefs and their attendants were allowed to enter.

4. Captain Cook now requested liberty of the chiefs to erect tents on shore, which was readily granted upon condition that none of the seamen should leave them after sunset. On their part the chiefs agreed that none of the natives should enter the tents after the same time. Unhappily, these salutary restrictions were violated, which led to sad consequences in the end.

For several days a good understanding was preserved. Teraiobu, the king, now an old man, spent a day on board the ships with his chiefs, where they dined. On the day following, Captain Cook and his officers dined on shore, at the royal residence, where they were served with baked hog, potatoes, and cocoanut-milk. Towards the close of the day the old king gave orders for a wrestling and boxing match. It was conducted in handsome style, and made much diversion for the English officers. The next evening Captain Cook returned the compliment by an exhibition of fire-works. The effect produced upon the natives was unexpectedly great. Many fled, by reason of terror, nor could they be persuaded to return. Even old Teraiobu quaked, and would

have fled also, had he been able, and had not Captain Cook kindly took hold of him, and bid him not be alarmed.

6. We must now pass for a few minutes to speak of Ledyard, and of a plan he formed, while affairs were in the above agreeable frame. On the island where the English now were stands a high peak which the natives call *Mouna Roa*. The height of this peak has been estimated to be about eighteen thousand feet. Its summit is covered with perpetual snow. No one, not even the natives, had ever reached its top. Ledyard determined to make the attempt. Accordingly having obtained permission of Captain Cook, he set out in company with two others, taking some natives as guides through the woods. The first night the company lodged at the hut of an Indian, who lived in retirement with his wife and daughter, by whom they were treated with much kindness, though, at first, they seemed to be quite terrified, at the appearance of the strangers.

7. The following morning, Ledyard and his companions proceeded toward the mountain. This day their route lay chiefly through the woods, through which they directed their course by means of a compass. Night

overtook them at the distance of fifteen miles from their morning starting place. They encamped beside a tree, which Ledyard found by measurement to be twenty-two feet in circumference. Here they slept quietly, notwithstanding that the dew was heavy and the air quite cold.

8. On starting the next morning, which they did in good spirits, they hoped to be able to reach that part of the mountain where the snow commenced. As they proceeded, however, unexpected obstacles impeded their progress. No path opened itself before them. At the distance of five miles, the thickets became absolutely impenetrable. What should they now do? Ledyard was unwilling to relinquish his purpose. It was now, however, obviously impossible to proceed. At this point, therefore, the project was abandoned, and the party again returned to the ships.*

* Since the time Ledyard visited the Sandwich Islands, Missionaries from America, it is well known, have been stationed there, and the most gratifying success has attended th. ir labours.

In 1823, it was determined by the Missionaries to form a number of stations on Hawaii, the island on which Captain Cook landed. But in order to do this to advantage it was deemed important to make a survey of the island. In fulfilling this design, the Missionaries were induced to attempt the ascent of the very mountain in which Ledyard and his companions had failed.

In this attempt, the American Missionaries were successful. Mouna Roa is situated about twenty miles from the sea. The crater of Kirauea

9. We have now arrived at a melancholy part of this voyage. We have noticed the kind reception of the English by the natives, and the continuance, for some time, of a mutual good understanding. At length, however, it was apparent that the islanders began to think the English troublesome. They doubtless were so. In many instances, the English treated the natives rudely, for which they were insulted.

10. The first serious difficulty, however, which occurred was on the occasion of taking on board the rudder of the Resolution, which had been repaired on shore. It being heavy, some of the natives were requested to assist. In attempting to assist, they caused no small confusion and embarrassment. Upon this the mate became angry, and struck two of the natives. Next, he ordered a chief who was present, to direct the natives to assist him. The chief, however, and his people who had become indignant, only laughed and hooted at the English. A crowd of natives now gathered to the spot; much disorder ensued,

is situated at the foot of this mountain. The upper edge of this crater the Missionaries estimated to be seven miles and a half in circumference, and not less than one thousand feet deep. Into this crater they looked. They could see the lava at the bottom boiling and rolling as it were one vast flood of liquid fire. At night, the fire which rose from Kirauea unfolded a sight terrible and sublime beyond all they had seen.

and several stones were thrown by each party. A guard of marines hastened to the spot and quelled the disturbance.

11. After this, broils were more frequent. Contentions were easily excited, and still deeper resentments were indulged. As Captain Cook was now making preparation to depart, he wished to supply the ships with wood. As none was within convenient distance, he offered two iron hatchets as the price for the fence which surrounded the Morai. This, as we have observed, was a sacred enclosure. The offer of only two hatchets was insulting to the natives, and they felt it to be so. They rejected the proposal with scorn. This irritated Captain Cook, and he ordered the seamen to break it down and carry it to the ships, which was accordingly done. This act on the part of Captain Cook, no circumstances could justify. The Morai was a depository of the dead; here also stood the images of their gods, and here their religious, though idolatrous, ceremonies were performed.

12. A supply of wood having thus been obtained, the only remaining requisite for the voyage was water. This being not to be obtained at Ke-ar-a-kak-wa, the vessels were unmoored and sail made for another island with

that object in view. A storm, however, came on, which so seriously injured the foremast of the Resolution, that both ships were obliged to return.

13. This was unfortunate. The natives saw them return with grief, perhaps with indignation. Not a solitary canoe came out to welcome their return. Towards night, however, several canoes proceeded to the ships for the purpose of selling provisions; but the natives now wanted on exchange only iron daggers, or dirks. From the Discovery the same night they stole besides two pair of tongs, several tools, with which they made their escape. A few nights after, they took away the Discovery's large cutter.

14. In this state of things, Captain Cook determined himself to go on shore, and to persuade the king to come on board, with a design to keep him prisoner until the cutter should be restored. For this purpose, several boats filled with men accompanied Captain Cook to the shore. On landing, he proceeded with a small guard to the house of Teraiobu, who on coming out to meet him, kneeled down in token of submission. Taking him by the hand, Captain Cook proposed that he should accompany him on board. Teraiobu reluctantly consented,

and now proceeded slowly towards the boat. The alarm, however, spread. Hundreds of people soon gathered around their aged chief. They were suspicious of evil design. At the moment of reaching the boat, a native sounded the alarm that they were going to kill the king; at the same time he approached towards Captain Cook, as if designing to attack him. Upon this Captain Cook levelled his piece and fired at the Indian with a blank. Perceiving, however, that he still approached, he fired a ball, which brought him to the ground. The confusion now increased. A deep indignation sat on the countenances of the increasing multitude. Several stones were thrown, one of which striking Captain Cook, he shot the man dead on the spot. At this moment the seamen, who were with the boat, fired upon the multitude, although no orders to that effect had been given them. Captain Cook and his men now found it necessary to retreat. On reaching the shore Captain Cook waved his hat for his men to cease firing, and while in this act a chief approaching him behind, plunged a dagger into his back, upon which he fell and immediately expired.

15. Thus fell a navigator, justly celebrated throughout the world; a man of consummate skill and of the boldest

and most heroic qualities. Yet, he fell in consequence of his own imprudence, and in pursuit of an object which no principles of justice could sanction. We shall not detain our readers with the transactions that followed this most melancholy event. We shall only add, therefore, that the ships soon after again proceeded to the polar regions, attempting anew the discovery of a northwest passage. This attempt, however, proving as fruitless as had the one the previous year, they set out on their homeward voyage. Proceeding by the way of China and the Cape of Good Hope, they at length reached England, after an absence of four years and three months.

CHAPTER VIII.

Return to America—Interview with his Mother—Residence at Hartford—Unsuccessful project of a voyage to the North-west Coast—Voyage to Spain—Repairs to France.

1. Our last chapter concluded with the return of Ledyard to England. How grateful must he have been to have escaped the dangers of so long a voyage, and again to find himself in a land of civilization and refinement. Two years from this date he was still in the British navy. How he had been employed we are not informed.

He had been repeatedly solicited to go to America, on board a man-of-war; but to this he would not consent. The war of the revolution was still going on and it was not in him to take up arms against his country.

2. At length, however, in December, 1782, Ledyard arrived in Huntington Bay, Long-Island Sound, on board a British man-of-war. Soliciting a furlough of seven days, he hastened to visit his mother who was still living at Southold, on the island. With what sentiments he approached her residence, we will not pretend to say. On entering, he found his mother occupied in keeping a boarding-house, for British officers. Without making himself known he solicited to be received as a boarder, and was accordingly shown to a room. Having changed his dress he repaired to the sitting-room, and without addressing himself to any one, he took a seat near the fire. His mother frequently cast her eye towards him, but she recognized him not. There was something, however, in his expression, which still attracted her attention. She thought of her absent son. She was sure that the stranger resembled him. Her curiosity became still more alive. At length, she could endure suspense no longer. She felt for her spectacles, which having

adjusted, she approached the still silent stranger, and begged his pardon; but she had a son who had now been absent eight years, and whom he strongly resembled. The gaze of his mother caused a glow of filial affection to appear on his countenance. He could resist his feelings no longer, and the happy disclosure immediately followed. Their mutual joy may be conceived, but we will not attempt to describe it.

3. Before the furlough of Ledyard had ended, he left his mother, and not wishing again to enter the British service, he proceeded to Hartford, by the way of New-London and Groton. At these latter places, he was cordially welcomed by his early friends, and on reaching Hartford was hospitably received by his uncle, Mr. Seymour. This was a pleasant period of his life. He had been a wanderer for ten long years and had visited the remotest quarters of the globe. Rest was now pleasant even to the restless spirit of Ledyard. He continued at his uncle's during the winter, in which time he wrote the journal of Cook's Voyage.

4. On the return of spring he was no longer tranquil. His spirit of adventure again stirred within him. The project of a voyage to the Pacific Ocean for commercial

purposes was started by his zealous mind, and within a few days he was on his way to Philadelphia to put it in execution. He had indeed suggested his plan to several merchants in New-York, as he now did to others in Philadelphia. But at this time, even the enterprising American merchants were unprepared to forward his views. No merchant ships had yet sailed to the North-west Coast, and it yet looked too much like speculation to attempt opening a commercial intercourse with a country so distant and as yet unexplored.

5. At length, however, he made known his wishes to the enterprising Robert Morris. This gentleman listened to his recital and to his plans. Morris with his characteristic liberality offered to furnish the outfits of a voyage. Accordingly, a plan was drawn up, and a suitable vessel sought for. Finding none at Philadelphia, Ledyard was despatched to Boston, where he procured one; but for some cause not now known, she was sent upon a different voyage. A second and a third vessel were afterwards procured, and we may add a fourth; but, for various reasons, their destination was also changed, and, at length the voyage was altogether abandoned.

6. Although abandoned by Mr. Morris, it was far from being relinquished by Ledyard himself. He next repaired to New-London, and unfolded his plan to Captain Deshon, a nephew of the gentleman with whom he had made, while a youth, a voyage to Gibraltar. Although desirous of gratifying Ledyard, Captain Deshon felt it to be the dictate of prudence to decline the project. Yet this he afterwards regretted, since, at a future day, the anticipations of Ledyard were fully realized by those who made the first voyage to the north-west coast.

7. Thus disappointed at home, Ledyard determined upon a voyage to Europe, hoping there to meet with better success. Finding a vessel bound to Cadiz, in Spain, he took passage for that place, whence, after several vexatious delays, he proceeded to L'Orient. He had been recommended to several enterprising merchants, residing at this place. He was well received; and within twelve days of his arrival, a company of merchants was called, a plan agreed upon, and a ship selected for the intended voyage. A bright prospect now opened before Ledyard. He had often met with cruel disappointments; but now he had reason to hope for the fulfilment of his wishes.

8. It being October, the merchants, upon reflection, concluded it to be expedient to postpone the sailing of the vessel until the following summer. This was quite a disappointment to Ledyard, but he had nothing to do but to wait with patience for the flight of time. As he had access to the agreeable and intelligent society of L'Orient, and a liberal income from the mercantile company, the winter was spent not unpleasantly. In February active preparations were commenced for equipping the vessel. Ledyard saw these going forward with no ordinary joy. The vessel was a fine ship of four hundred tons, and by August he should spread her canvass on the ocean. With these anticipations, he addressed an affectionate letter of adieu to his brothers in America, in which, commending them and his other friends to God, he bid them farewell, should he be permitted to see them no more.

9. The cup of Ledyard's diseppointment was not yet full. The expedition failed; but of the causes of its failure, we are ignorant. Disappointed and mortified, his purse exhausted, his purpose baffled, his zeal wasted, what could he now do? For a time he sat down truly afflicted and despondent. Again he bethought himself,

again he cast his eye around for light to break in from some other quarter. At length, he directed his attention to Paris, and to that capital he now hastened, where we shall leave him till the next chapter.

CHAPTER IX.

Interview with Mr. Jefferson—Plan conceived with the celebrated Paul Jones—Projects a Tour by Land to the North-West Coast by the way of Kamschatka—Invited to accompany an Expedition from London—Cause of its Failure.

1. Our last chapter concluded with the sad and unexpected failure of Ledyard's plan, and with it his equally unexpected journey to Paris. On his arrival, he introduced himself to Mr. Jefferson, at that time minister from the United States to the court of France. On commu-

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nicating to that gentleman his object, the latter expressed himself friendly to the enterprise, and tendered his assistance to the extent of his power.

2. Within a few days Ledyard met with the celebrated Paul Jones, at this time in France, for the purpose of obtaining money due for several prizes which he had taken during the war. Jones entered with great zeal into the views of Ledyard, and an arrangement was soon closed, by which they agreed to unite in an expedition, the expense of which, if not borne by the English government, should be defrayed by Jones's private resources.

3. The imagination of Ledyard again took wing. His wishes could now scarcely fail of being accomplished. He delighted in hazard and adventure: he had now a prospect of these, and of fame and profit in addition. At the moment of advancing money for the necessary outfit, Jones was called to L'Orient, where he was detained for three months. In the mean time his ardour cooled, and when he next met Ledyard, it was only to tell him that he could not carry the contemplated plan into execution. This intelligence was as unexpected as unwelcome.

4. An ordinary mind would have sunk under the pressure of so many repeated disappointments. Ledyard was indeed depressed; yet he could rouse himself to hope, and now sustained his spirits by still looking forward to better days. As a last expedient, he submitted the plan to several merchants of Paris, who formed a company, and made some progress towards the intended voyage. But at length the blast of an ill fortune swept along, and again annihilated the fond expectations of Ledyard. After a lapse of five months, he found himself no nearer the accomplishment of his purpose, than when it was first conceived. It was a gratification to Ledyard, however, during his painful solicitude, to enjoy the company of such distinguished men as Jefferson, Barclay, and General La Fayette.

5. The prospect of accomplishing his favourite plan was now ended. He had laboured, but laboured in vain. At this time, he turned his thoughts to another plan, which was to travel by land through the northern regions of Europe and Asia, and passing Bering's Strait to the American continent; whence, having surveyed the coast, to return home across the country. This being determined upon, his first object was to obtain permission of

the Empress of Russia to pass through her dominions, by the way of Kamtschatka. This permission Mr. Jefferson undertook to obtain, through the Russian minister at the court of France. This would require some months, and Ledyard had only to wait with patience the arrival of his passport.

6. While waiting in Paris for the above, he received intelligence of a peculiarly pleasing nature. This was no other than that an expedition was about sailing for the Pacific Ocean, and that he was requested to accompany it. He accordingly hastened to London, where he found a ship in complete readiness to sail. He was offered a passage free, accompanied with the promise that he should be set on shore at any point on the north-west coast he might name. Ledyard readily accepted the proposal. It added not a little to his pleasure that one of Cook's officers was to be a companion of his voyage.

7. Having provided himself with two dogs, an Indian pipe, and a hatchet—his only outfit, he repaired on board, soon after which the vessel put to sea. This was a moment of great exultation to Ledyard. He was no longer planning, but was executing; no longer contriving means to go—he was already under sail. Alas! how

uncertain are all human expectations. Scarcely was the vessel under way, and while not yet out of the sight of land, orders were received for her immediate return. Accordingly the direction was changed; the vessel was moored along side of a London dock, and the project abandoned. We shall not attempt a description of Ledyard's feelings, but content ourselves with recording his emphatic language soon after he left the ship: "Fortitude! adieu!"

CHAPTER X.

Siberian Tour—Proceeds to Hamburg—Copenhagen—Interview with Major Langhorn—Stockholm—Petersburg—Departure for Kamschatka—Incidents on the Journey.

1. Our last chapter concluded with the grievous disappointment of Ledyard in not being able to prosecute his voyage to the Pacific. On his return to London, he again began to make preparations for his land tour through the Russian Empire to Kamschatka, and thence to Nootka Sound.

2. In a few weeks he left England, and we next meet with him at Hamburg, on the river Elbe. This is a German city of Lower Saxony, 448 miles north-east of London. It is far from being elegant in its appearance. The streets are narrow, crooked, and irregular; yet it is a place of great trade, being well situated for that purpose, on the north bank of the Elbe. Before the French revolution, it ranked as the third city in Europe.

3. While at Hamburg, Ledyard heard of Major Langhorn, an American officer, a very eccentric man, who was travelling the country much in the same style with Ledyard himself. He had been at Hamburg, but was now at Copenhagen. Thither Ledyard determined to proceed, and if possible to secure the company of Langhorn on his contemplated tour.

4. On reaching Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, 170 miles north-east of Hamburg, Ledyard found Langhorn, but in circumstances which deeply interested his feelings. He was without money, without decent apparel; and more than all, without friends. Although our traveller had not ten guineas in the world, and knew not by what means he could replenish his purse, when the little he had was expended, he generously administered

to the wants of his new friend, and even felt happy though his money was gone.

5. Ledyard, at length, opened his plan to Langhorn, and proposed that he should accompany him through the wilds of Siberia. "No," replied Langhorn, "much as I esteem you, I cannot travel with you: I can travel with no man on earth." This was abrupt; and though not intended, was apparently unkind towards so liberal a benefactor as Ledyard had been. These friends now separated with mutual good feelings; and Ledyard having procured a small sum of money of a merchant to be refunded by a friend in England, proceeded directly to Stockholm.

6. Stockholm lies 300 miles north-east of Copenhagen, and is the capital of Sweden. It is chiefly built on three islands. Its population is from eighty to a hundred thousand. Its harbour is one of the finest in the world, being of sufficient depth and capacity to contain one thousand vessels.

7. The next object of Ledyard was to reach Petersburg, 400 miles to the east of Stockholm. The route in the summer season lies across the Gulf of Bothnia to Abo, in Finland. The same route is pursued in winter,

when the sea is sufficiently frozen to admit the passage of sledges on the ice. Although now the latter part of January, the ice presented no safe conveyance, and yet it effectually impeded all navigation. The only alternative therefore presented to Ledyard was, either to wait at Stockholm till the opening of the spring, or to travel around the Gulf of Bothnia to Lapland, and thence to Petersburg, a distance of twelve hundred miles.

8. He was not long in determining to take this latter course. Accordingly, in the depth of winter—on foot—without a companion, and without a friend—he took up his long march by the way of Tornea in Finland, whence he proceeded to Petersburg, where he arrived before the twentieth of March, having travelled amidst snows and storms about two hundred miles a week.

9. Petersburg, where Ledyard now found himself, is at this time one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. It is situated at the eastern extremity of the Gulf of Finland, near the mouth of the river Neva. The city was founded by Peter the Great. Previous to the year 1703, the spot on which it is built contained only two huts. It now contains more than three hundred thousand inhabitants, and the general elegance of its buildings surpasses every other city in Europe.

10. On reaching Petersburg, Ledyard learned, much to his regret, that the Empress was absent, and was not expected to return until late in the spring. Here, therefore, he was obliged to wait, until a passport could be forwarded to her and returned. This he received about the middle of May, and on the first of June left Petersburg for Kamschatka, a distance of seven thousand miles.

11. It was fortunate for Ledyard that, on the eve of his departure, he was introduced to a gentleman by the name of Brown, who, under a commission from the Empress, was proceeding to the province of Kolyvan, a distance of more than three thousand miles, and on the route which Ledyard would take. Brown invited Ledyard to be his companion. This invitation was gladly accepted, both as he would be able to travel with much greater expedition, and at the public expense. Leaving Petersburg, as already intimated, the party directed their course towards Moscow, 350 miles south-east, at which place they arrived in six days. Moscow was formerly the capital of the Russian Empire; but has given place in this respect to the more splendid city of Petersburg.

12. From Moscow their route lay east to Kazan, on the right bank of the Wolga. Kazan is a city containing

about twenty thousand inhabitants, and is the capital of a government to which it gives name. To this place, which according to Ledyard is 550 miles from Moscow, they travelled in a *Kibitka*, drawn by three horses. This is a kind of vehicle so arranged as to form a kind of home, being fitted with the apparatus necessary for living upon the road.

13. Having staid a week at Kazan, our travellers proceeded on their journey, and crossing the Ural Mountains, arrived on the 11th of July at Tobolsk, a city of considerable interest, and once the capital of all Siberia. It stands at the junction of two large rivers, Tobol and Irtish, and is not far from one thousand miles east-by-north from Moscow.

14. Our travellers remained at Tobolsk but three days, and then continued their journey to Barnaoul, in the province of Kolyvan, famous for its mines of copper, silver, and gold. At this place, Ledyard was to leave Dr. Brown, and proceed alone. Again, however, he was so fortunate as to have offered to him a seat with the courier, who had charge of the mail. Having taken an affectionate leave of Dr. Brown, for whom he seems to have contracted a sincere esteem, he mounted his seat

in the kibitka, and in two days and three nights found himself at Tomsk, a distance of about 300 miles. Here they were detained several days waiting for a mail, that was coming by another route from Tobolsk. That having arrived, our travellers continued their journey, and in ten days reached Irkutsk in safety, although they had broken and upset several kibitkas, in consequence of their rapid passage over a wild and ragged country. The journey was rendered still more unpleasant by swarms of musquitoes which continually infested them, and by a powerful rain which drenched them for the space of forty-eight hours.

15. Irkutsk is the capital of a government to which it gives name. It stands on the river Angara, which rises in the Lake Baikal. When Ledyard visited the place, the city contained about twelve thousand inhabitants. Since that period they have much increased, and the place is now one of greater commercial importance than any other in Siberia.

16. While detained at this place, waiting for the post, Ledyard made a visit to the celebrated Lake Baikal. The length of this lake is supposed to be 360 miles, and its breadth from 20 to 53. More than a hundred and

sixty streams of various sizes discharge their waters into this lake; and yet it has but a single outlet, which is less than a mile in breadth. By what means the immense quantity of water thus poured into the lake is discharged, is quite uncertain. By some, it is conjectured that there exists an internal communication between the lake and the ocean. The water of the lake is fresh, but so deep that no sounding line has ever reached the bottom. In this lake is found the sea dog, a fish which belongs to the ocean, and which seldom enters rivers even for a small distance. How it should have reached a fresh water lake, at least three thousand miles from the ocean, has never been satisfactorily explained. "Nothing," says a writer, "can be conceived more interesting and magnificent than this lake. Those who have visited it, seem at a loss for language adequate to describe the feelings which it excites, when first beheld. It is inclosed by rugged mountains, and the sublime scenery around strikes every beholder with astonishment and awe. At some seasons, it is so agitated by violent storms, that in the tremendous roaring of its billows it equals the mighty ocean; while at others, the clearness of its unruffled bosom emulates the lustre of the finest mirror."

17. On the twenty-sixth of August, Ledyard left Irkutsk on his journey northward; and at the distance of one hundred and fifty miles, embarked on the river Lena in company with a Swedish officer, with the intention of floating down its current to Yakutsk. Their boat was an open one, and had few accommodations. After a fatiguing voyage of twenty-two days, in which time they had passed over fourteen hundred miles, they arrived at their place of destination. Although only the eighteenth of September when they arrived, the ground was covered with snow, and the rigours of a polar winter had commenced—a great transition from the climate, which was that of summer, which they left behind them at Irkutsk.

CHAPTER XI.

Siberian Tour—Yakutsk—Meets with an old Friend—Return to Irkutsk—is arrested as a French Spy—ordered to leave the Russian Empire—Returns to London.

1. It was now Ledyard's wish to proceed as soon as possible to Okotsk, a port situated on the Ochota, from which vessels sailed to Kamschatka, and distant from Yakutsk between six and seven hundred miles. This expedition was the more necessary, as winter would soon render the journey impossible. While making prepara-

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tions, he was informed that it was already impracticable. This was a grievous disappointment to Ledyard; but reconciling himself as well as he was able to his fate, he determined to make the best use of his time, in gathering information respecting the country in which he was to take up his winter abode.

2. We shall not detain our readers with the result of his inquiries, although his journal contains much that is interesting, curious, and instructive.

3. At the expiration of two months from his arrival at Yakutsk, he had the pleasure of meeting with Captain Billings, who had just arrived from an expedition to the river Kolyma and the Frozen Ocean. During Ledyard's voyage round the world with Captain Cooke, he had become acquainted with Billings, who served during that expedition as assistant astronomer. The meeting was grateful to both, and here they spent five weeks together much to their satisfaction.

4. At this time Captain Billings invited Ledyard to accompany him to Irkutsk, whither it was needful for him to repair before he set out on his return to Okotsk. As this would not be until spring, and as Ledyard designed to accompany Captain Billings at that time, he

accepted the invitation. The river Lena being now frozen, they travelled upon sledges on that; and with such speed did they perform the journey, that in seventeen days they found themselves at Irkutsk, a distance of between fourteen and fifteen hundred miles.

5. Here a new misfortune awaited our traveller. By an order of the Empress of Russia, which was forwarded to this place, he was seized as a French spy; and under the conduct of two guards was with the greatest expedition, and in the midst of a Siberian winter, hurried forward towards Moscow. From this latter place he was conducted into Poland, where he was left to dispose of himself as he pleased—with a strict injunction, however, not to return to the dominions of the Empress, upon penalty of being hanged.

6. This sudden and peremptory recal of Ledyard by the Empress, after having received her royal passport, may well appear surprising. Various conjectures as to her motives have existed. Her avowed pretence was a humane one: that she would not be accessary to the death of so brave a man, attempting a journey through regions so remote and inhospitable, and among savages so barbarous as inhabited the north-western coast. But

the real ground of his recal is with much greater reason supposed to have been the jealousy of the Russian-American Fur Company, who were unwilling that a foreigner should survey the country, and publish to the world an account of his discoveries to their disadvantage. Hence they made such representations to the Empress, as to induce her to issue her royal mandate for his return.

7. Ledyard, as we have above stated, being left to himself on his arrival in Poland, took the shortest route to Koningsburg, the capital of Eastern Russia. His condition was now truly deplorable. His fond hopes were blasted, and he had no longer any rational prospect of ever being able to accomplish an object in the pursuit of which he had spent years of the severest toil. Added to this, his health was greatly enfeebled; and he now found himself without a single friend to comfort him, or to furnish the means of returning to London.

8. Fortunately, however, a gentleman agreed to accept a draft for five guineas upon his old benefactor, Sir Joseph Banks; and by means of this money he was enabled to reach London, after an absence of one year and five months.

CHAPTER XII.

Expedition to Africa—Proceeds to Paris—thence to Marseilles—Sails for Egypt—Proceeds to Cairo—Illness—Death—Character—Reflections.

1. Although Ledyard now found himself in the society of friends and acquaintance, he was unhappy, for he had no object in view. In this state, Sir Joseph Banks recommended him to the African Association, as a proper person to explore the interior of that continent. He was accordingly introduced to the Board, and when asked when he would set out, replied, with his characteristic promptness and decision, "To-morrow morning." It is scarcely necessary to say that the Association immediately took him into their service, and commenced preparations for his departure without delay. According to his instructions he was first to repair to Egypt, and travel thence across the continent as circumstances should direct.

2. The prospects of Ledyard were once more bright, and he did not conceal the satisfaction which he felt, in

being thus honourably and usefully employed. It was an enterprise, he well knew, in which he must suffer hardships and encounter danger. But with these he was already familiar. He had suffered from poverty, and been the sport of a strange fortune. He had suffered from the unkindness and jealousy of man—had wandered through inhospitable climes, a stranger and a beggar, in want by day, and houseless by night; yet his heart was still strong; and in view of his African expedition, he seems to have forgotten all previous cares, defeats, and disasters.

3. On the thirtieth of June, his preparations having been completed, he left London. On the morning of his departure, he took leave of the secretary of the African Association, to whom he said: "I am accustomed to hardships. I have known both hunger and nakedness to the utmost extremity of human suffering. I have known what it is to have food given me as charity to a madman; and I have at times been obliged to shelter myself under the miseries of that character, to avoid a heavier calamity. My distresses have been greater than I have ever owned, or ever will own to any man. Such evils are terrible to bear; but they never yet had power to turn me from my

purpose. If I live, I will faithfully perform, in its utmost extent, my engagement to the society; and if I perish in the attempt, my honour will still be safe, for death cancels all bonds."

4. On leaving London, Ledyard proceeded to Paris, thence to Marseilles, where he took ship for Alexandria. From this last place he pursued his journey up the Nile to Cairo, where he arrived on the nineteenth of August. Here it was his intention to join a caravan, with which to travel into the interior, and to continue with it to the end of its route. It was not, however, until the expiration of three months, that he found a caravan going to Sennaar, whither he wished to direct his course. He had engaged his passage, settled the terms, and already the day was fixed on which he was to leave Cairo.

5. But the will of Heaven was otherwise. This was to be the end of his earthly travels—of his mortal career. When on the point of starting, he was suddenly seized with a bilious complaint, which in a short time closed his life of vicissitude and toil. Thus, at the early age of thirty-eight, went to his grave John Ledyard, who for originality of genius, for courage amidst danger, fortitude under trial, and resolution under defeat, has scarcely a parallel in the history of man.

6. We cannot better close our account of this wonderful man, than by quoting the language of one who wrote from personal knowledge. "To those who have never seen Mr. Ledyard, it may not, perhaps, be uninteresting to know, that his person, though scarcely exceeding the middle size, was remarkably expressive of activity and strength; and that his manners, though unpolished, were neither uncivil nor unpleasing. Little attentive to difference of rank, he seemed to consider all men as his equals, and as such he respected them. His genius, though uncultivated and irregular, was original and comprehensive. Ardent in his wishes, yet calm in his deliberation; daring in his purposes, but guarded in his measures; impatient of control, yet capable of strong endurance; adventurous beyond the conception of ordinary men, yet wary and considerate, and attentive to all precautions—he appeared to be formed by nature for achievements of hardihood and peril."

7. It will only be added, that the life of such a man is not without its use. He indeed accomplished few of the great enterprises which he planned; but it was not his fault, only his misfortune. Why he was thus defeated in respect to enterprises, the accomplishment of which

would have been useful to the world, is hidden from us. Nor would we vainly inquire. Perhaps he is equally entitled to the respect of mankind, as if he had accomplished all. To his countrymen, and especially to the younger part, he exhibited traits of character well worthy their imitation. In his disposition he was amiable; to his benefactors always grateful; and in the exhibition of disinterestedness had few equals. With his decision, energy, perseverance, fortitude, and enterprise, living as they do in better times, what may we not expect under the auspices of a smiling Providence from our American youth?